

Washington Outdoor Woman



February 24, 2005

Jeff Koenings, Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
600 Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RECEIVED

MAR 1 2005

WDFW
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Jeff;

On behalf of Washington Outdoor Women (WOW), thank you for offering Department support of our 2004 outdoor education program. I worked with Kathryn Waldrop on insurance coverage of our weekend workshop and she informed me that the 2004 coverage would be the last liability insurance that WDFW could allow WOW. Both the volunteers who run the program, the instructors who teach its courses, and the participants who have attended the workshops appreciate the consistent role WDFW has played in WOW's development over the last eight years. Because support from WDFW, the WOW program continues to grow and expand its outreach into communities and its effectiveness as a tool for resource advocacy.

2004 saw a new partnership form between WOW and the Washington Wildlife Federation (WWF). As WOW has evolved and expanded, it's become apparent that women are looking for more in-depth information about the challenges that face wildlife, habitat and future access opportunities for outdoor recreation. WOW's intent has always been to encourage responsible hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation and plant the seed of stewardship. Mothers of children, wives of outdoorsmen, young professionals who engage in workplace conversations – all have the potential to influence future attitudes and behavior where our resource is concerned. As you know, WWF is the Washington state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Both have a mission of caring for wildlife and wild places. WWF is playing a role in the *Go Play Outside (GPO)* Program which brings outdoor activities to our state's youth. As an outdoor education program of WWF, WOW expects to further its visibility and offer more opportunities to women. One opportunity WOW might facilitate is to encourage women to volunteer at GPO events. This type of networking is very do-able.

The WOW ads in the WDFW Hunting and Fishing regulations have been effective in bringing new participants to the program. More husbands than wives or girl friends see them, but the men call to order brochures for the women! I sincerely hope that these WOW ads can continue. They are so important to spreading the information statewide. And they speak to a relationship between WDFW and WOW – one that tells the public the Department supports outdoor skills education for women; values them as confident, responsible recreationalists, and hopes for their support as stewards of the fish, wildlife and habitat they enjoy. Since WOW has WDFW employees as instructors (Tammy Conklin and Jim Byrd teach Basic Fishing; Shelly Ament teaches Wildlife I.D. and Bear and Cougar Tactics; Laura Till teaches Map and Compass I and II), we hope we

can count on the annual press release that Margaret Ainscough sends out each June. It allows WOW to reach many communities across the state. In 2004, 30% of WOW's westside workshop participants came from towns in eastern Washington.

WOW values its relationship with WDFW. We look forward to having WDFW involved as a sponsor of WOW's 2005 outdoor skills program. WOW's popular 2 and ½ day workshop is scheduled for September 16-18, 2005 at Camp Waskowitz in North Bend, WA. One or two shotgun/Clays workshops will also be offered.

Thank you for your interest in WOW and for the Department's support. We count on and look forward to continued interaction with WDFW.

Sincerely,



Ronni McGlenn
Program Director
Washington Outdoor Women
(425) 455-1986
ronnimc@earthlink.net

C: Dave Brittell
Encl: WOW 2003-2004 Annual Report